

THE Bloomfield Record
A WEEKLY JOURNALS. MORRIS HULIN, Proprietor
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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1897.

The School-District Fight.

Monday was opinion day in the Court of Errors at Trenton, when it was expected that a final decision would be reached in the Bloomfield-Glen Ridge school-tax difficulty. The court, however, ordered the "re-arguing" of the cases, stating that the constitutional question as to the rights involved was of so much importance that it was desired to have the same argued before a full court. The question now is whether the supplements to the Borough act of 1878, are constitutional, giving boroughs power to levy and collect taxes for schools and all other purposes.

The decision of the Supreme Court in the School case between Bloomfield and Glen Ridge was such that both took appeals to the Court of Errors, the Supreme Court having decided virtually in favor of and against both the Township and Borough. The authorities of each accordingly made appeal from the same decision, which was subjudiciable so that the Borough could tax itself for school purposes, and that the Township had a right to assess school taxes throughout a district covering the territory of Glen Ridge.

In the meantime Glen Ridge is forging ahead with her street improvements, and by the way these are being made in a thorough and satisfactory manner, far ahead of anything ever done in the township. Her school improvements may be hindered for another year or two, and it may be said that Bloomfield has all the school buildings on her territory, but it suggests the inquiry: Is it any wonder Glen Ridge kicked against representative government and succeeded?

So long as the litigation in regard to school district continues, both Glen Ridge and Bloomfield must suffer, but the people in the hill are much better able to stand it, with their lower taxes and other advantages than the people in the township, especially those with children to educate and small homes that are both overvalued and overtaxed at the 3-03 rate.

As long as uncertainty and litigation continue, there will be no reduction of taxes in Bloomfield, nor any satisfactory progress made in building up the town. No one will come here to buy or rent property until the tax question is settled.

What Bloomfield needs now is just enough to take litigation and partly misrule by the scuff of their necks and bury both in the deepest sewer trench that can be found available.

The long expected and again postponed decision of the Court of Errors and Appeals in the School District case has served to bring once more before the community the question which touches every home and family where there are children: What is Bloomfield going to do about schools? Already children are being turned away, scores of them, from our public institutions of learning. Small children, seven and eight years of age, have to walk several miles in order to find any accommodations. And the population is growing.

We have now five school buildings, on a mere makeshift, and forty-four teachers. But public sentiment is not yet sufficiently aroused to make itself felt. The School Trustees, as representatives of the public will, no doubt are at work upon this problem. Two new lots were recently bought, but it is for the people themselves to decide what sort of schools, how large, of what grade, shall be built upon them. What do we need most? More primary schools, another grammar school, or a high school building with a complete equipment, to serve as an inspiration and object of endeavor for all the children in the lower grades?

Bloomfield is many years behind the times in school matters. To even up with the communities about us every public minded citizen ought to begin to think seriously upon a very serious situation.

Costly Experience.
One of the mis-leading articles in the last issue of The Citizen contained the following headlines in black type: "The loss of Glen Ridge a benefit and not a detriment to the Township," which caused one prominent Bloomfield citizen to remark that "It cost the Township about \$10,000 to find that out."

W. C. T. U. Notes.
On Tuesday, November 30th, the W. C. T. U. will give a social tea and reception to the members, associate members and friends of the Union. All friendly disposed to the good work done by the W. C. T. U. are earnestly requested to make arrangements to be present either in the afternoon or evening of the last day of November, from 4 to 10 P. M. It is hoped that there may be a short program for the evening.

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE.

A regular meeting of the Township Committee was held on Monday night. All members were present except Mr. Lawrence. Bills were ordered paid amounting to \$1201.74.

Chairman Stout first inquired if there was any one present who desired to be heard. Jacob G. Post, Justice of the Peace, responded. He owns property at 225 Franklin Street, formerly the John S. Taylor home, at the foot of Franklin Hill. About six weeks ago he had the house vacated to make necessary repairs and improve it. The building since then has been made the target for vandals, who have broken every window in the house and damaged the walls, the woodwork and fence to the extent of \$200. Even the doors were knocked down and broken.

"Do you know who the guilty ones are?" inquired Chairman Stout.

"No," replied Judge Post, "if I did I would not come here to complain." The inquisitor was continued, "I have in broad daylight, and when the neighbors expected, with the boys they received, nothing but abuse. The Justice suggested that the Committee offer a reward for the arrest of the guilty, the same as was done in regard to the breaking of gas lamps."

"That would be a very good thing to do if you will show us where the funds are coming from," said Mr. Stout.

"We have to provide funds to pay our taxes" was the retort of the Justice, who, continuing, expressed the wish that the Committee would take a look at the place to satisfy themselves of the damage done. "It looks," he added, "as if the rebels under the command of General Lee had been through it." I have lived in Bloomfield forty years and I have never seen anything to equal it."

"What can you do about it?" replied Mr. Stout, and the indignant Justice of the Peace retired.

Chairman Stout called attention to the unfinished condition of the iron fence at the Berkeley Avenue bridge put up by E. W. Sutton of Glen Ridge, and asked Engineer Olmsted if the contract did not include a cost of paint.

Mr. Sutton will be called upon to complete the work satisfactorily to the Committee.

Mr. Moore reported that a request had been received for an electric light near the Belleville Avenue station of the Erie Railroad, which was referred to the Lighting Committee.

Chairman Moore of the Police Committee said that he had sent officers to the place, but at the sight of a bluecoat the disorderly characters who would disappear only to return as soon as the policeman left. With reference to the identity of the young men comprising the gang, Committee-man Foster, who lives in the vicinity, referred to his colleagues that in his opinion there would be no trouble in locating the guilty persons, as their names and initials were cut in the buildings with vile and indecent scribblings, while three young trees along the curb had been cut so much that they had died. Even the fence, Mr. Hyde said, had been disfigured by knife-cuts, and is in consequence of little, if any, value.

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